

MY VOCATION STORY

I am Isidore Jude. I come from Pomio, Guma Parish, under the Archdiocese of Rabaul. This year will be my first year to be here in the Holy Spirit Seminary Bomana to do my philosophy studies, and also it will be my sixth year of being in the seminary. However, when I entered the Holy Spirit Seminary for the first time, there was a great feeling of excitement that arose within me, about the beauty of the place. The nice flowers, nice looking landscape, the view of the mountains and the atmosphere of the place which made me felt so attracted to the environment, and also it reminded me of Sacred Heart Seminary Rapolo.

Anyway, I come from a very devoted Catholic family that consists of five members, four boys and our beloved sister. The first born in our family is a boy, second is a girl, I am third, fourth is a boy and fifth is also a boy. My parents are both subsistence farmers. We all lived together in a small village with my uncles, aunties and cousins, working, playing and sharing things together.

As I grew up to the age of twelve, I started my elementary school in 2004. And then after completing elementary, I continued on with the other grades in the primary school level. After completing my grade eight in 2012, I failed my exam. At that time I didn't give up. Despite all the failures, I made up my mind, and so I entered the vocational school for one year and six months. That was from 2013 to 2014, when I was at the age of 15. Experiencing the life during that time was very hard. I found it very hard to control myself, because I was not mature enough to be in that school.

However, when I was on the job training for another six months working as a carpenter, I felt that the job was very heavy and tough for me to handle. So I made up my mind and left my work and went home. Then from 2015 to 2016, I repeated my grade seven and eight at St. Isidore Guma Primary School, when I was at the age of 16. At that time I was encouraged by a male teacher who taught me to pray the Holy Rosary when we were in class. When I was continuously praying, I noticed that at the end of my schooling years I was able to score very good marks. During those times, I was admired by a priest, especially when I served him on the alter every Sunday and in big celebrations. When I continued on doing these things, my desire of becoming a priest started to burn within me. After completing my grade 8, I was selected to St. Paul's Tol High School to continue my grade 9 and 10. After that I entered Sacred Heart Seminary Rapolo to continue my grade 11 and 12 at Don Bosco Secondary School. That was from 2019 to 2020. And that was the time that I received the CALL from God, and that is through the Holy Spirit which opened my mind and heart to make this special choice. After completing grade 12, I continued with Propaedeutic 1 and 2 programs in the seminary. That was from 2021 to 2022. And then last year 2023, I completed my Spiritual Year Program in Jiwaka Good Shepherd Seminary, Banz, Fatima.

With that, I thank God for giving me this special gift of Vocation, and for the wisdom and knowledge He has given me to understand my vocation, to make good choices and right decisions, which enable me to discern His call. That is why I'm not lost, but I'm here in Holy Spirit Seminary Bomana to continue my journey with Him.